

Fort Des Moines Historic Complex,
Building 87
(Cavalry Band Stable)
Des Moines
Polk County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-121-V

HABS
IOWA,
77-DESMO,
24-V-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Building No. 87. Band Stable

Building No. 87 was raised according to standard plan 139F in the Quartermaster General's office. Erected along Chaffee Road to contain sixty cavalry horses used by members of the regimental band, it cost \$13,007.60 and was finished on June 21, 1905. Like the other stable barns, Building No. 87 had brick (orange rather than red) walls and a slate roof and rested on a limestone foundation, but it measured 67 feet by 125 feet--fully 40 feet shorter than the others. Similar to those in overall design, it possessed a gabled roof with louvered monitor. Each end had two double sliding doors beneath segmental arches, plus a smaller loft entrance and four double hung windows. Each side contained a double door with segmentally arched doorway, besides two double hung windows, six lights over six lights, and nine single sash windows (on the east side these were later converted to double hung windows).

The interior of the structure contained 15,516 cubic feet of space. Floor space comprised 9,802 square feet, arranged in the following manner:

First floor:

Stable room, 64' 10" x 122' 10" (including 4 rooms, 9' 8" x 10' 7"; 1 room, 19' 6" x 32')

Loft:

1 room, 41' 10" x 44' (including 1 room, 9' 6" x 19' 6")

Floors were of wood, brick, clay, and concrete. Electricity provided lighting and there were connections to water and sewer lines. Maintenance repairs performed between 1905 and 1922 averaged \$15.07 per year. As of January, 1942, the stable was in process of being converted to a fire station. Either this work or subsequent work entailed

substantial modifications to the building. The slate roof was changed to asphalt shingles. On the north side the loft was bricked in and the double door towards the east sealed with cinder blocks and a single door with 3-light transom added. A garage door was also installed on the north side, while a window towards the northwest corner was converted to a door. Similarly, on the east side a double door entrance was bricked in and converted to a window. As previously indicated, most windows on the east side been lengthened. At the south side a large garage door was installed at the center, and the original double doors were bricked in and changed to single doors which retain traces of the original width. The sides of the monitor have been shingled in asphalt except for one paired set of windows on each side. In 1987 the structure, in good to excellent condition, was being used by the General Services Administration.(36)

36. Card for Building No. 87. "Historic Record of Buildings." NA, RG 77, Box No. 51; Field survey notes, February 20-22, 1987. QMG Plan No. 139F was not located in NA, Cartographic Archives Division.